

Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-14. (Cancelled)

15. (Previously Presented) A radio communication system, comprising:
a primary station operable to transmit a random access channel status message that includes an indicated highest available data rate on each random access channel of a plurality of random access channels; and
a plurality of secondary stations operable to receive the random access channel status message, wherein each secondary station is further operable to determine which random access channel to request based on the random access channel status message.

Claims 16-17. (Cancelled)

18. (Previously Presented) The radio communication system of claim 15, wherein the random access channel status message is transmitted by said primary station as a part of a paging indicator channel.

19. (Previously Presented) The radio communication system of claim 15, wherein the random access channel status message is transmitted by said primary station as a part of an acquisition indicator channel.

20. (Withdrawn) A primary station, comprising:

- a transmitter that is configured to transmit a random access channel status message to a plurality of secondary stations, and
- a controller that is configured to:
 - determine an availability of each of a plurality of random access channels,
 - determine a highest available data rate for each available channel of the plurality of random access channels, and
 - create the random access status message that includes an indicated highest available data rate for each of the plurality of random access channels,

Claims 21-22. (Cancelled)

23. (Withdrawn) The primary station of claim 20, wherein the random access channel status message is transmitted by said primary station as a part of a paging indicator channel.

24. (Withdrawn) The primary station of claim 20, wherein the random access channel status message is transmitted by said primary station as a part of an acquisition indicator channel.

25. (Withdrawn) A secondary station, comprising:

- a receiver that is configured to receive a random access channel status message from a primary station, wherein the random access channel status message includes an indicated highest available data rate for each of a plurality of random access channels;

a controller that is configured to:

select a selected random access channel from the plurality of random access channels, based on the indicated available data rates, and

create an access request for the selected random access channel; and

a transmitter that is configured to transmit the access request to the primary station.

Claims 26-27. (Cancelled)

28. (Withdrawn) The secondary station of claim 25, wherein the random access channel status message is transmitted by the primary station as a part of a paging indicator channel.

29. (Withdrawn) The secondary station of claim 25, wherein the random access channel status message is transmitted by the primary station as a part of an acquisition indicator channel.

30. (Previously Presented) A radio communication method, comprising:
transmitting from a primary station, a random access channel status message that includes an indicated highest data rate of each of a plurality of random access channels;
receiving, at a secondary station, the random access channel status message;
selecting, at the secondary station, a selected random access channel based on the received random access channel status message;
requesting, by the secondary station, the selected random access channel from the primary station.

Claims 31-32. (Cancelled)

33. (Previously Presented) The radio communication method of claim 30, wherein the random access channel status message is transmitted by the primary station as a part of a paging indicator channel.

34. (Previously Presented) The radio communication method of claim 30, wherein the random access channel status message is transmitted by the primary station as a part of an acquisition indicator channel.

35. (Previously Presented) The radio communication system of claim 15, wherein the indicated highest available data rate serves to identify whether the corresponding random access channel is available, and identifies a highest available data rate for available channels of the plurality of random access channels.

36. (Previously Presented) The radio communication system of claim 15, wherein the indicated highest available data rate of at least one available random access channel is lower than a highest data rate that could be made available to the at least one random access channel, based on a potential future demand for capacity.

37. (Withdrawn) The primary station of claim 20, wherein the indicated highest available data rate serves to identify whether the corresponding random access channel is available, and identifies a highest available data rate for available channels of the plurality of random access channels.

38. (Withdrawn) The primary station of claim 20, wherein the indicated highest available data rate of at least one available random access channel is lower than a highest data rate that could be made available to the at least one random access channel, based on a potential future demand for capacity.

39. (Withdrawn) The secondary station of claim 25, wherein the indicated highest available data rate serves to identify whether a channel is available, and identifies a highest available data rate for available channels of the plurality of random access channels.

40. (Withdrawn) The radio communication method of claim 30, wherein the indicated highest available data rate serves to identify whether a channel is available, and identifies a highest available data rate for available channels of the plurality of random access channels.

41. (Previously Presented) The radio communication method of claim 30, wherein the indicated highest available data rate of at least one available random access channel is lower than a highest data rate that could be made available to the at least one random access channel, based on a potential future demand for capacity.